

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are active. As required by the Examiner, a Brief Description of the Drawings section has been added to the specification. The claims have been revised for clarity and to remove multiple dependencies. New claims 12-18 find support on page 1, lines 9-19, of the specification and claims 19-20 on page 9, lines 15-19, of the specification. No new matter has been added. Favorable consideration of this amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Specification--Objection

The objection to the specification as not containing a Brief Description of the Drawings is moot in view of the amendment above.

Claim--Objection

The objection to claim 1 is moot in view of the amendments above.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is moot in view of the amendments above. The numerical designations have been retained for clarity and to provide antecedent basis for certain terms. While these designations may be found in the figures, they are not limited by the particular embodiments described by the figures.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Locum, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,803,483. This rejection is moot in view of the perfection of

the foreign priority claim by the attached certified English translation of GERMANY 102 60 092.9 which was filed December 19, 2002. Support for independent claim 1 may be found, for example, in claim 1 of the English translation of the priority document.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §103(a)

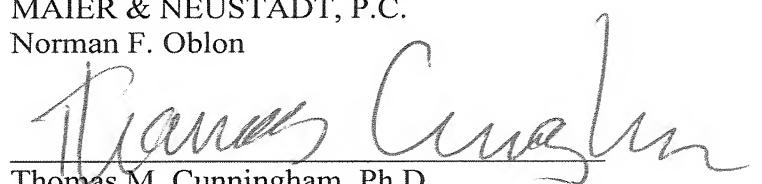
Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grun, et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,108,770. This rejection is moot in view of the perfection of the foreign priority claim by the attached certified English translation of GERMANY 102 60 092.9 which was filed December 19, 2002. Support for independent claim 1 may be found, for example, in claim 1 of the English translation of the priority document.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks above, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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